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CARL THEODOR ERNST VON SIEBOLD.

CARL THEODOR ERNST VON SIEBOLD, the last in the male line of a family very distinguished during four generations in science and medicine, was born in Würzburg, Germany, on the 16th of February, 1804. After a long career of almost incessant and invariably successful industry, his life closed on the 7th of April, 1885, at Munich. His death deprives the Academy, of which he became an honorary member in 1854, of one of its most distinguished associates.

Siebold was a zoölogist from inward necessity, and turned to zoölogy as an occupation under all circumstances. He had a natural inclination for collecting and systematic arrangement, and an irrepressible interest in the living animal. These two tastes were his most marked professional traits, and fixed to a great extent the scope of his work. His researches were in large part, though not exclusively, upon the species and classification of various groups, and secondly upon the phenomena of animal reproduction. The former class of investigations reveal the painstaking and accurate temperament of the man, and also his extensive knowledge of the literature of his science. They are represented by numerous papers on Invertebrates, and an invaluable monograph of the Fresh-water Fishes of Middle Germany, — a work undertaken at royal request, and representing the labor of several years. His most important achievement in systematic zoölogy was the definite recognition of the protozoa as unicellular animals, forming a distinct sub-kingdom. This fine generalization has been the basis of all the subsequent progress of knowledge concerning this group.

Siebold's studies upon reproduction were very fruitful, and their fruit of the best value. He elucidated much of our present knowledge of the life history of helminths, a subject of equal scientific and practical importance; and it is principally to his many observations that we owe the discovery of the laws of parthenogenesis, one of the most significant phenomena of animal life.

Besides all this, Von Siebold produced, together with Stannius, a text-book of Comparative Anatomy, which, though written forty years ago, has never been surpassed in thoroughness and comprehensive treatment, and still remains a mine of information to the student. This remarkable book, of which Siebold wrote the part dealing with the Invertebrates, is not a mere compilation, although it shows an exhaustive acquaintance with the literature of the subjects, but is much more, since it contains very numerous original observations.

We must also mention the gathering of Siebold's large collection of helminths which is now in the Museum at Moscow, and his gradual extension and perfection of the zoölogical collections at Munich, of which he had charge for some thirty years.

Von Siebold was educated as a physician, and began practice as a "Kreisphysicus" at Heilsperg, Prussia, and subsequently continued it as director of a lying-in hospital at Danzig. In 1840 he was called to Erlangen as full Professor of Zoölogy, Comparative Anatomy, and Veterinary Medicine; in 1845 he changed to the University at Freiburg; in 1850, to Breslau; in 1853, to Munich, where he remained until his death, continuing his active teaching until 1883. He married Fanny Nöldechen in 1830, and a year after her death married, in 1855, her sister. It is noteworthy that his academical career did not begin until he was thirty-six.

He was a large man, whose hair early turned gray, and whose short-sighted eyes were shadowed by heavy eyebrows. He was genial with his students and much liked by them, though less excellent in the lecture-room than in personal intercourse. He was devoted to music, which was his constant solace and of which he possessed much knowledge.

Siebold is most widely known as the founder of the "*Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie*," which was inaugurated in 1849, and has now passed its fortieth volume. Probably no other periodical has exercised as great an influence as this *Zeitschrift* in furthering the highest interests of that science to which Von Siebold devoted the best powers of his long and honored life.

Since the last Report, the Academy has received an accession of ten new members; viz. three Resident Fellows, four Associate Fellows, and three Foreign Honorary Members. The list of the Academy, corrected to the date of this Report, is hereto added. It includes 192 Resident Fellows, 88 Associate Fellows, and 72 Foreign Honorary Members.